



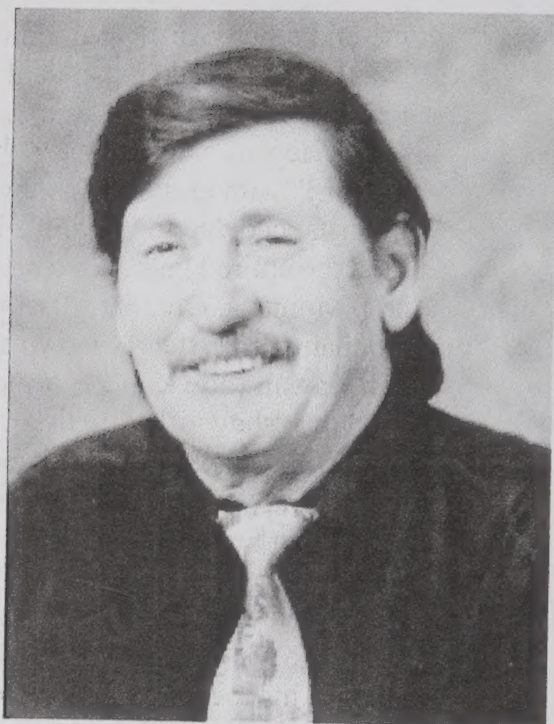
**1125<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**  
7:30PM Wednesday January 27, 2009  
Building C, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, California

**Coffee Connection: The Montealegre  
Family in the Bay Area, California**  
*Federico Castillo*

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Pacific Coast Numismatic Society  
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**Gordon R Donnell – 1935-2010**

My dear friend Gordon R. Donnell died peacefully in his sleep on January 8, 2010. For many of us, an obituary is a listing of awards and accomplishments, children and relatives left behind and good works done during a fine long life.

Well, this will be a little different, not because Gordon did not have accomplishments or win awards, but because I believe we should celebrate a life, well lived, long, but not long enough, accomplished but not in the traditional sense.

I met Gordon when he attended a Pacific Coast Numismatic Society monthly meeting and since I lived near where he stayed, I happened to drive him home one night, to a mansion in Berkeley, California. No, he did not own it, he merely boarded and worked as a sometime gardener and caretaker for the owner. From that chance drive, a friendship developed, both of us coin collectors and both of us interested in token collecting, exonumia for those in the know. So we traveled to almost all the local coin shows in the Northern California area together, me the driver, Gordon, the toll payer, and always stayed all day,



shopping, talking, and otherwise enjoying the coin show community. It was a match made in heaven! My travel to coin shows will be a bit more lonely in the future.

Now, to his life. He was an interesting character; once married to a "showgirl" with children to show for that union, although they are distanced due to Gordon's itinerant lifestyle. He traveled around the entire United States while a young man, living in Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Missouri (St. Louis where he was born), and many other states. He was a bona fide Marine, serving in Hawaii (how can a Marine be stationed in Hawaii!). He lived the "showgirl" circuit for a time, was a bouncer, ticket-taker, and showgirl dresser (somebody has got to help them into those tiny costumes!!) He worked for a time at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. And he was a coin and token collector.

Gordon was awarded the Krause Numismatic Ambassador award several years ago for his many club memberships (upwards of 50 or so), his tireless efforts to sell club raffle tickets and his equally tireless efforts to recruit new members to the various coin clubs to which he belonged. He was life member of many clubs and enjoyed attending as many meetings as he could find willing drivers to take him or bus fare when those drivers had other commitments.

Gordon did not have a mean bone in his body; he always bought me a Lotto ticket before each show we attended and although we never won, it became a tradition.

He lived a good life; not one that will be celebrated in books or remembered by posterity, but one of simplicity that most of us will live, therefore we should celebrate such a life with a raised cup of whatever beverage suits your fancy and say, as he would, "Wait a minute, is that a 1909s VDB?" *Herb Miles*

Please join us January 27, 2010 at 7:30PM to hear PCNS President Federico Castillo tell us about the California connection to the Montealegre coffee family through its tokens.

### **1124<sup>th</sup> meeting, December 2009. Holiday Banquet**

Attendance was somewhat light due to many holiday conflicts. But as usual, a good time was had by all in attendance. Plenty to eat and lots of good coin related discussions!

### **1126<sup>th</sup> meeting February 2010 White Elephant Sale**

We are resuming a long PCNS fundraising event, the annual White Elephant sale. This will be held at the regular February meeting. Please plan on both attending the auction as well as donating some interesting numismatic items.

### **December 2009 Exhibits**

*Whalen* brought a US trade dollar, high detail, discounted for damage, which he needed for his collection.

*Scott* brought four Belgian congo pieces, minted in Belgium that he had just received. 1 cent, 2 cents, 5 cents, and 10 cents dated 1888 and 1889, one was a spectacular full red.

*Dan* brought a strange counterfeit coin supposed to be an 1875 S over S Morgan dollar but was a peso on the reverse.

*Ken* brought a Hong Kong dollar with Queen Victoria on the obverse graded EF.

### **2010 Papers contest**

Articles are solicited for the next PCNS papers contest. The due date will be the April 2010 meeting. Authors are reminded that all illustrations and photos must have the permission to be used for publication. Also note that many images available on the internet are not in the public domain nor of high enough resolution to be suitable for the quality of publication that we envision. Full contest rules will be available on the PCNS website, [www.pcns.org](http://www.pcns.org).